The Branch has a staff complement of 13 which is sufficient to handle the business thereat and provide efficient customer service. The Branch is providing efficient customer service to its customers. During the current year, branch has organised Customer Relations Programme on the 12th June, 7th August and 6th November, 2002. Keeping in view increasing business levels, computerization of the Branch is in process.

(b) to (d) As per the provisions of Section 23 of the Bani<ing Regulation Act, 1949, Banks decide themselves where to open a new branch but have to obtain prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the same. RBI has not received any proposal from any bank for opening a branch at this location.

Unrecovered Taxes

684. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount of unrecovered taxes pertaining to Income Tax, Corporate Tax, Custom Duty and Central Excise Duty as on 31 St March, 2000, 2001 and 2002; and

(b) the time bound year-wise target of liquidating the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The amounts of Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Customs Duty and Central Excise Duty outstanding as on 31st March, 2000, 31st March 2001 and 31 St March 2002 are Rs. 62,459 crore, Rs. 67,039 crore and Rs. 86,342 crore respectively.

(b) No time-bound year-wise target for liquidating the outstanding amount of unrecovered taxes can be fixed. In respect of cases which are under dispute, the assessees generally do not pay up the confirmed demands of taxes considered due by the Department, until they exhaust all the available legal remedies.This is an on-going process under which old demands get reduced or collected and fresh demands are added each year. Persuasive and coercive action, as prescribed under the relevant laws, is being taken.